

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A display device of the thin-film electroluminescent display type, comprising:

a first layer having [[an]] a first electroluminescent material, wherein the first electroluminescent material forms a first pattern;

a second layer forming a transparent front electrode;

a third layer having at least one first rear electrode, with a shape corresponding to the first pattern, the first layer being between the second layer and the third layer;

a fourth layer behind the third layer and having [[an]] a second electroluminescent material, wherein the second electroluminescent material forms a second pattern that corresponds to a negative image of the first pattern; and

a fifth layer with at least one second rear electrode, with a shape corresponding to the second pattern and masking an area which is not covered by the first rear electrode.

2. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second rear electrode overlaps an edge of the first rear electrode.

3. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first rear electrode covers a surface corresponding to a display background and has at least one hollow area, the second rear electrode masking at least part of the hollow area.

4. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the first rear electrode has several hollow areas, and the fifth layer has second rear electrodes shaped so as to mask the hollow areas such that the first and second rear electrodes together mask all of the display background.

5. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second rear electrodes may be activated so as to display no information.

6. (Original) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electroluminescent layers are formed from an electroluminescent ink.

7. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first and second rear electrodes are obtained by depositing conductive particles suspended in a liquid medium.

8. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electroluminescent material of the first layer and the fourth layer can be controlled such that no areas are visible between portions of the electroluminescent material controllable to display information.

9. (Currently Amended) A display device comprising:
luminescent material, wherein the luminescent material comprises:
a first layer comprising first luminescent material, wherein the first luminescent material forms a first pattern; and
a second layer comprising second luminescent material,
wherein the second luminescent material forms a second pattern that corresponds to a negative image of the first pattern, and[[;]]
wherein the second luminescent material may be controlled to be illuminated to mask a space in the first luminescent material; and
electrodes configured to control illumination of the luminescent material such that the luminescent material can be controlled to display information;
wherein all of a display background can be controlled to be illuminated by luminescent material.

10. (Previously Presented) The display device of claim 9, wherein the luminescent material of the first layer and the luminescent material of the second layer are separately controllable.

11. (Original) The display device of claim 10, wherein luminescent material is printed on the first layer.

12. (Previously Presented) The display device of claim 10, wherein the electrodes comprise:

a first electrode associated with control of a section of luminescent material of the first layer;

a second electrode associated with control of the section of luminescent material of the first layer; and

a third electrode associated with control of a section of luminescent material of the second layer.

13. (Original) The display device of claim 12, wherein the first electrode is also associated with control of the section of luminescent material of the second layer.

14. (Original) The display device of claim 12, wherein

the second electrode is located in front of the first layer and the second layer;

the first electrode is located behind the first layer; and

the third electrode is located behind the second layer.

15. (Original) The display device of claim 14, wherein the third electrode overlaps the first electrode.

16. (Previously Presented) The display device of claim 10, wherein the first layer has a first set of areas that can be controlled to be illuminated, the second layer has a second set of areas that can be controlled to be illuminated.

17. (Original) The display device of claim 9, wherein the luminescent material can be controlled such that no areas are visible between portions of the luminescent material controllable to display information.

18. (Currently Amended) A display device comprising:

luminescent material, comprising:

a first layer having first luminescent material, wherein the first luminescent material forms a first pattern; and

a second layer having second luminescent material,
wherein the second luminescent material forms a second pattern that corresponds to a negative image of the first pattern, and

wherein the second luminescent material may be controlled to be illuminated to mask a space in the first luminescent material; and

electrodes configured to control illumination of the luminescent material such that the luminescent material can be controlled to display information;

wherein the luminescent material can be controlled such that no areas are visible between portions of the luminescent material controllable to display information.

19. (Currently Amended) The display device of claim 18, ~~further~~ comprising a first layer having first luminescent material and a second layer having second luminescent material, wherein the first luminescent material may be controlled to be illuminated to display information.

20. (Original) The display device of claim 18, wherein all of a display background can be controlled to be illuminated by luminescent material.

21. (Currently Amended) The display device of claim 18, ~~further~~ comprising,
a first layer having a first electrode,
a second layer, behind the first layer, having luminescent material,
a third layer, behind the second layer, having a second electrode,
a fourth layer, behind the third layer, having luminescent material, and
a fifth layer behind the fourth layer, having a third electrode.

22. (Currently Amended) A display device for use in an automobile, comprising:
a first electroluminescent active element located in a first plane, wherein the first electroluminescent active element forms a first pattern; and

a second electroluminescent active element located in a second plane different than the first plane,

wherein the second electroluminescent active element forms a second pattern that corresponds to a negative image of the first pattern, and

wherein the second electroluminescent active element masks a space in the first electroluminescent active element.